

# Country Journal

Devoted to the Needs of the Hilltowns

Becket, Blandford, Chester, Chesterfield, Cummington, Goshen, Huntington,  
Middlefield, Montgomery, Otis, Plainfield, Russell, Sandisfield, Westhampton, Williamsburg, Worthington

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## WILLIAMSBURG

# Town votes on Safety Complex April 3

By Peter Spotts and  
Shelby Macri

Next Saturday, April 3, town voters will make their decision on whether to go through with the recommended proposal to remove the Helen E. James School building and build a new public safety complex for the Police and Fire Departments in its place.

The special town meeting will convene at 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 3, behind the Anne T. Dunphy School at the playground. There will be a tent set up for attendees, with a heater if needed.

“We will have chairs placed social distanced and multiple microphones,” Town administrator Charlene Nardi said. “There will be a short presentation then the moderator will take questions and comments prior to any vote.”

She added, “We hope that residents will be educated about the proposed project and will [be] confident in their votes. I hope people will come to vote. Be prepared and wear shoes for mud. It is expected that the playground may be wet and muddy. I would also recommend warm clothes if it is a cool day.”

The \$5.1 million dol-



The Helen E. James School may be demolished if the town votes in favor of the proposal for a new public safety complex recommended by the Owner's Project Manager Steering Committee to build a new complex in its place.

Photo by Shelby Macri

lar proposal has been discussed heavily the past couple months as the Owner's Project Manager Steering Committee has been hosting virtual information sessions, distributing informational handouts, and answering the most frequently asked questions in a document on the town website. The cost covers the design, engineering, bidding, construction, equipping, and furnishing of a new public safety complex at 16 Main Street. It also covers the costs for the demolition and removal of the HEJ School building.

Voters must pass the article at the STM for the debt borrowing to fund the

project with a two-thirds majority vote to exclude it from the limitation so of Proposition 2 1/2. If that vote passes, the question moves to an all-day ballot vote, which will be held on Monday, April 19, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Mail-in and in-person voting will be available. Questions regarding the ballot vote can be directed to Town Clerk Brenda Lessard at 413-268-8402 or town-clerk@burgy.org.

The other article on the warrant is the appropriation and transfer of \$57,073.42 to pay the balance of the fiscal 2020 sewer service costs assessment to Northampton.

“Town Meeting says

how much you can spend each year. In June 2019, they set a budget for their sewer. They did not budget enough to pay this full sewer bill assessment,” Nardi said. “They have to go to town meeting again to say we didn't budget enough.”

The updated PSC FAQ, now answering 25 questions about the public safety complex proposal, is on the town website, burgy.org, under the Owner's Project Manager Steering Committee page. For more information and a copy of the warrant, visit the town website.

The OPMSC members,

VOTES, page 6

## WORTHINGTON

# Blais visits board for town concerns

By Peter Spotts

State Rep. Natalie Blais paid the Selectboard a virtual visit with the impacts of police reform being one of the hot topics to discuss.

Police Chief Robert Reinke told Blais that under the new bill's requirements, the town won't be able to afford to train and retain its officers, which they use four to eight hours a week currently.

“Us small towns are in a very bad situation trying to figure out how were going to deal with it both financially and how we're going to get to people,”

BLAIS, page 7

## BECKET

# Traffic concerns on grant radar

By Shelby Macri

During Selectboard meeting on March 17, residents Dustin Heilman and Rob Benton joined the meeting to speak further their concerns about traffic caused by large truck on Algeria Road and Bonny Rigg Hill Road.

These two residents first brought the issue to the board at a meeting in February, hoping to include possibly a sidewalk or a safer space for pedestrians while on these roads.

TRAFFIC, page 11

## GATEWAY

# Towns, committee amend agreement

By Shelby Macri

Facilitated discussions for the Gateway Regional School District continue as amendments for the regional agreement remain in discussion for two of the six towns who have yet to pass the updated agreement.

Hosted by the Massachusetts of Association of Regional Superintendents, the ongoing discussions for the past couple years has focused on updating the regional agreement. Currently four out of six

AGREEMENT, page 7

## HAPPY DOGGY



“Buddha” was one of 40 grateful recipients of the rabies vaccination passed out at a clinic held at the Middlefield Town Hall on Saturday, March 20. See story page 12. Submitted photo

## HILLTOWNS

# Town Administrator and Fire Chief retiring

By Peter Spotts

Chesterfield is looking for a new Town Administrator and Goshen a new Fire Chief as Sue Labrie, a leadership staple in both communities, is retiring from both positions this summer.

Labrie has spent the past decade helping manage town operations in Chesterfield as the town administrator. It's a position where she's enjoyed working with a dedicated team of people all committed

to the same goal.

“[My favorite part is] interaction with the people who are really committed to the town of Chesterfield,” Labrie said. “In small communities, you've got a group of people who help the town operate. It's a great group of people because they all want to be here, they're doing a great job, and it's really enjoyable interacting with them.”

“She's going to be

RETIRING, page 3

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HILLTOWNS

MassWildlife proposes first license increase in 26 years

By Tyler S. Witkop  
Correspondent

Flashback to the year 1996. Bill Clinton began his second term as U.S. president, Michael Jordan and the Chicago Bulls won their fourth NBA title and a gallon of gasoline cost \$1.23.

In Massachusetts, resident hunting and fishing licenses increased to \$22.50 and a trapping license rose to \$30.50.

Despite drastic changes to everyday life with the advent of the internet and smartphone technology that connects people to goods and services anywhere on the globe with the push of a button, those license fees remain as one of the few relics from 1996 still in place today.

Now, facing drastic increases in both costs and services, and declining revenues, the state’s Division of Fisheries and Wildlife is proposing its first increase in license fees, to go in effect in 2022.

To better inform the public of the rationale and license structure, MassWildlife is offering a series of online informational sessions via Zoom throughout the month. The last will take place Tuesday, March 25, at 6:30 p.m. To participate, visit [www.mass.gov/info-details/masswildlife-funding#how-will-masswildlife-fund-conservation-in-the-future](http://www.mass.gov/info-details/masswildlife-funding#how-will-masswildlife-fund-conservation-in-the-future).

MassWildlife Director Mark Tisa informed participants of a March 9 informational session that each year, roughly 500 bodies of water are stocked with trout with nearly half being 12-inches or larger, more than 40,000 pheasant are released on public lands for hunters, and the state manages more than 226,000 acres of land. In addition to managing game species, all of the state’s threatened and endangered species fall under the management of MassWildlife.

Budget gap

For fiscal 2021, the division’s revenue, according to the presentation, was roughly \$16.9 million. Fees from licenses, permits and stamps accounted for 39% of that figure or roughly \$6.6 million. Forty-eight percent, or \$8 million, came from federal wildlife and sport fish restoration funds.

State mandated expenses such as salaries and health insurance amount for 20% or nearly \$3.5 million of the \$18.4 million in expenses for fiscal 2021, more than what the Division pays for its hatcheries, which is nearly \$2.5 million, or land acquisition and maintenance, which is roughly \$2 million. Thirty-three percent, or roughly \$6 million, is used for habitat management.

“We have been very fiscally responsible,” Tisa said of the management of MassWildlife, pointing to the fact that licenses haven’t increased in 25 years. He said had license fees kept with the rate of inflation, hunters and anglers would be paying \$37.52 today (in addition to the \$5 wildland stamp fee).

A major issue leading to the declining revenues is the decline in hunting and sporting (combination hunting and



Fishing and hunting license fees are scheduled to go up this year as they have not gone up in 25 years. as costs and services, and declining revenues, The state’s Division of Fisheries and Wildlife has proposed the increases as its costs and services go up and revenues are declining. About 40,000 pheasants are raised by the state and stocked on lands across the commonwealth.

Courtesy Photos

fishing) licenses, which Tisa said is about 50 percent for hunting licenses and roughly 20 percent for sporting licenses. Additionally, the state now issues in excess of 27,000 free licenses to sportsmen and women aged 70 and older each year, resulting in a loss of about \$1 million in non-reimbursable funds.

This year alone, Tisa estimates a budget gap of \$1.5 million between revenue and expenses, which will be made up by tapping into the roughly \$9.5 million in the state’s Inland Fish and Game Fund. At the current trajectory, MassWildlife will have a \$4.1 million revenue gap and deplete the balance of the Inland Fish and Game Fund by fiscal 2025.

‘Path Forward’

“The challenge is finding a path forward,” Tisa said. “We only have so many tools in our tool box,” noting that the license fee structure is the one tool the Department of Fish and Game and MassWildlife controls.

Under the new proposal, residents would pay \$40 for hunting, fishing and trapping licenses. Sporting licenses would increase from \$40 to \$75. Archery and primitive firearms stamps would increase from \$5.10 to \$20. All other hunting stamps and permits would increase from \$5 to \$20. Additionally, MassWildlife is proposing a new stamp for pheasant and quail hunting at \$20.

“We don’t like the idea at all,” Tisa said. “It’s unfortunate it’s happening at a difficult time,” but the proposal should sustain the Inland Fish and Game Fund until fiscal 2030.

Tisa and Fish and Game Commissioner Ron Amidon said that the state legislature would need to address other changes, whether they be reimbursing for free licenses, imposing fees on other “non-consumptive” public land users like bird watchers or kayakers, or increasing funding. Unfortunately, they told those in attendance March 9, neither one of them can lobby legislators for

such changes. That, they said, is incumbent upon individual residents.

Mixed reaction

Reaction to the proposal has been mixed. While most seem to understand the issues at hand, increasing the cost of licenses is an added expense for no added benefits in the field. Some expressed disappointment that there is little bass management taking place statewide, others that hunters seem to be taking the brunt of the increases. Georgetown resident Bob Pasquale asked if there had been any thought to adding a trout stamp, as anglers are able to use their licenses essentially 24/7, 365 days a year.

Tisa said they had considered such a stamp, however it would likely create more problems, particularly with enforcement and fish mortality rates. He noted that unlike states, such as Virginia, which have few trout-stocked waterbodies, nearly all of Massachusetts’ freshwater resources are stocked with trout. And, unlike pheasant or quail hunters, who can easily identify a flushing pheasant or quail from a ruffed grouse or a non-game species, anglers typically have no idea what fish took the bait on the other end of the line.

“Everyone walking a dog on a wildlife management area [during hunting season] is interfering with a hunt,” Norwood resident Steve Flaherty said, expressing concerns during the March 9 session. “We need somebody at the state level advocating for us.”

Amidon and Tisa said they need residents to advocate the legislature for changes, whether it be funding, access or enforcement. They also reminded those on the call that should the new license fee schedule move forward, there will be public hearings. Any resident wishing to provide input on the proposals are invited to direct comment electronically at [mass.gov/masswildlife-funding](http://mass.gov/masswildlife-funding) or by sending mail to MassWildlife re: License Fee, 1 Rabbit Hill Road, Westborough, MA 01581.



State fishing and hunting licenses may go up for the first time in 25 years. The state’s Division of Fisheries and Wildlife stocks about 500 bodies of water with trout. These fish are rainbow trout.

‘Make it easy’

While he was unable to attend the information session, Chicopee sportsman Nelson Molina, who has been hunting for the last three years, expressed his frustration that the state seems to be making it harder for folks to enter the woods legally, especially those in urban communities.

“How do you make [hunting] appealing to people who have never hunted?” Molina asked, noting his own struggles as a new hunter trying to learn everything from safe firearm handling to where to go.

“I ate pheasant for the first time in my life this year and it’s not as crazy people make it seem,” he said.

Molina said the issue, from his perspective, is a tricky one as the state has only gotten more restrictive with gun laws and the free, mandatory hunter education (required for new hunters) courses are almost non-existent in Western Massachusetts. He said he paid to take the Texas hunter education program online because he couldn’t find a course in Massachusetts that fit his schedule. He said more programs should be offered online and locally in order to remove barriers to accessibility.

“You have to make it easy,” Molina said. “People don’t want to do work.”

Proposed Hunting and Fishing License Fees 2022  
(Source: MassWildlife)

- Resident fishing (17 and older) - \$40
- Resident Fishing (65-69) - \$20
- Resident fishing 3-day - \$20
- Non-resident fishing - \$50
- Non-resident minor fishing (15-17) - \$8
- Non-resident 3-day fishing - \$30.50
- Resident trapping - \$40
- Resident trapping (65-69) - \$20
- Non-resident trapping - \$215
- Resident hunting - \$40
- Non-resident big game - \$112
- Non-resident small game - \$78
- Resident sporting - \$75
- Resident sporting (65-69) - \$37.50
- Trap registration number/renewal - \$20
- Archery stamp - \$20
- Primitive firearms stamp - \$20
- Waterfowl stamp - \$20
- Antlerless deer permit - \$20
- Turkey permit - \$20
- Bear permit - \$20
- Pheasant and quail stamp - \$20

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# HILLTOWNS

## RETIRING

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tough to replace, really,” said Chesterfield Selectboard Chair Roger Fuller. “She’s a very self-motivated person and just took it upon herself to redefine what it meant to be a Town Administrator... We’re very fortunate to have her all these years.”

Labrie has been a member of Goshen’s Fire Department for 32 years, the past 15 as chief — the first female fire chief in the Commonwealth. She was recruited when she moved into town.

“My husband and I built our house in Goshen and when you build your house there are inspections that happen along the way,” she said. “When the Fire Chief came in to do the fire inspection on the house, he said ‘have you and your husband considered joining the FD?’ We said sure, that’s how it happened.”

She added, “I actually did an inspection last month and I did the same thing to the homeowner that was building over there. He said ‘yeah, I’ll consider it.’ You put it in their heads and hopefully they show up.”

Whether it’s mutual aid, responding to a motor vehicle incident, medical call, or a fire, Labrie said volunteer fire departments are rewarding because they’re “really are taking care of your community.”

“We have a very dedicated group of firefighters right now and everybody’s there for the right reason,” she said. “I feel like we’ve helped a lot of people along the way.”

Goshen Selectboard Chair Angela Otis said in a statement the town was surprised and saddened to hear of her retirement, but is grateful for the considerable notice she’s given the community and the sacrifices she’s made for it over the years.

“Sue was the first woman in the Commonwealth to serve in the role of fire chief and one of few woman chief’s in that position across the state today,” Otis said in her statement. “Something that comes to mind as I reflect on Chief Labrie’s service is ‘how many family events did Sue miss over the years?’ The Selectboard and residents cannot thank her enough for the risk she took, the personal sacrifice she made and for her leadership and mentoring. She values her team and it shows in the skills she has developed in her volunteer group.”

As a Town Administrator, Labrie said the way she helps the town isn’t as visible as being a fire chief in the community, but she’s proud of the work that goes on behind the scenes to bring in grants for projects that otherwise may not have the funding to happen, such as fixing the road leading up to New Hingham Elementary School or securing funding for a small bridge replacement.

“That was over a \$1 million grant just to repair that road,” Labrie said. “Just trying to get things done for the town at a reduced cost; I would have liked to have seen moving forward with the public safety complex here, but that’s going to happen after I leave.”

One of the harder adjustments she’s had to make as an administrator is the time and processes through which different projects must go before they can be implemented.

“When you try to do anything in a municipality it’s a slow process. Nothing happens quickly so it gets frustrating,” she said. “You know what you want to get done, but you have to go through all the processes, all the steps to get something done and it takes so long.”

Fuller had been on the board for 24 years and remembers what it was like before Chesterfield had a funded Town Administrator to help manage day-to-



Sue Labrie

day operations and the position has been crucial.

“I remember days of not having a Town Administrator and the amount of work it took to keep all the balls in the air. I think things have gotten a lot more complicated since that time and more demanding than it used to be,” he said. “It really helped a lot just to get it funded, any town administrator. Sue

is just a self-motivated, well organized individual, who did the job very well, communicated very well, helped all sorts of departments and residents in many, many situations and she had skills beyond that.”

In Goshen, Labrie said one of her greatest accomplishments has been the 24 years of teaching fire prevention to the school age children in town with the aid of SAFE grant program funding, through the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services, helping fund handouts and materials for the children to take home.

“I’ve pretty much been teaching a full generation of kids on fire safety. I would say that’s probably one of my biggest accomplishments,” she said. “Hopefully, them bringing the message home and you don’t know how many fires were prevented through that education.”

“Sue’s tenure has been marked with significant accomplishments and she will leave big shoes to fill,” said Otis. “She has established a wonderful fire safety program with both the seniors through the Goshen Council on Aging, and the children at the New Hingham Elementary School, which many have credited, in part, for saving the lives of local children and families who awoke to find their house on fire.”

During her tenure as chief, she’s helped secure more than \$750,000 in grants for the Fire Department including \$325,000 for a new fire truck.

Labrie’s final day as Town Administrator is June 17. Applications are currently being accepted for the position until April 15. Labrie said the town hopes to have a replacement named by May 15 so they can have a month to work with Labrie and get acclimated to the position.

“They have to make sure it’s a good fit for them. You are dealing with the public a lot; you’re dealing with a municipal schedule. I came into it, I always felt one of my strong suits was analytical skills because my prior background was a systems analyst,” Labrie said. “I really think if you think analytically, you’re basically doing a lot of problem solving with this job; a lot of research and problem solving.”

Interested applicants should send Resume and cover letter should be sent to the Chesterfield Select Board, PO Box 299, 422 Main Road Chesterfield, MA 01012 by 3 p.m. on April 15, 2021. For more information and a job description, visit [townofchesterfieldma.com](http://townofchesterfieldma.com).

“I’m not sure what the next one will bring, but if it brings anything near what Sue brought to us over this length of time it will be a godsend because any small town needs a Town Administrator to do the day-to-day stuff that otherwise the Selectboard would have to do,” Fuller said. “I’m glad the two of them are able to retire early. It’s great for them and I applaud them for excellent planning to get this far in life and being able to enjoy what I would hope to be a very long retirement.”

Goshen will be discussing how to fill Labrie’s void at a future Selectboard meeting. More information on Goshen and its fire department is available at [goshen-ma.us](http://goshen-ma.us) or [goshenmafire.com](http://goshenmafire.com).

## MAPPING THE WAY



Kim Kelliher maps Old Route 23 the way it was before the great flood of 1955.

Submitted photos



Karen McTaggart gets a closer look of the Westfield River while mapping Old Route 23.

## COVID-19 Relief Fund available

The Hilltown CDC announced businesses, nonprofits, artists, and farmers in the Hilltowns may apply for small grants up to \$15,000 for suffering a financial impact due to COVID-19.

The grant is open to any business located in the hilltowns, even if the business owner doesn’t live in the hilltowns. Grant applications can be obtained on the Hilltown CDC’s website at [www.hilltowncdc.org](http://www.hilltowncdc.org) or by contacting Michele Kenney, program coordinator, at [michelek@hilltowncdc.org](mailto:michelek@hilltowncdc.org) or 413-354-1055.

The Hilltown COVID Relief Fund is available to businesses, nonprofits, artists, and farmers in the towns of Blandford, Chester, Chesterfield, Cummington, Goshen, Granville,

Huntington, Middlefield, Montgomery, Peru, Plainfield, Russell, Westhampton, Williamsburg, Worthington.

For more information, contact Michele Kenney at [michelek@hilltowncdc.org](mailto:michelek@hilltowncdc.org)

Senator Adam Hinds worked with Executive Director Dave Christopolis to secure \$250,000 in the State budget to provide additional support for the rural Hilltowns of Massachusetts. Due to Hind’s advocacy, Hilltown CDC received \$250,000 to provide much needed financial relief to the region. Hilltown CDC will administer \$150,000 of the fund and \$100,000 of the funding will be administered by the Greater Shelburne Falls Area Business Association.

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Please send resume or letter of interest you may also email [information@Raymakers.com](mailto:information@Raymakers.com) for an application.

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OPINION

GUEST COLUMN

Claiming Social Security now to preserve savings

By Russell Gloor

Dear Rusty: One of the big pieces of the Social Security puzzle that everyone seems to miss is the protection of other retirement funds. If I did not take Social Security, I would have to dip into my retirement savings to fund the early part of my retirement. I took Social Security at my full retirement age rather than wait, so I am preserving my retirement account that has historically been getting 8 to 9% interest over the last 30 years. Social Security will never give me anything close to those returns. Signed: Smart Investor

Dear Smart Investor: You are, of course, correct that preservation of retirement savings is important. It's also correct that everyone's personal financial situation is different. If your retirement nest egg has historically provided a return of 8 to 9% over the last 30 years and will continue to do so, then I believe you made the right choice by claiming at your full retirement age (FRA), and preserving those high-return investments.

But many are not as fortunate as you and have their nest egg sitting in low-interest IRAs and bank savings accounts, and those folks may have a different perspective. They may choose an option to delay claiming Social Security to get a higher monthly benefit, initially using some of their low-return savings, but allowing them to preserve their overall savings much further into their retirement because of a higher Social Security benefit. And most often, continuing to work provides them added ability to delay claiming Social Security to get that higher benefit.

Personally, I do not advocate withdrawing from retirement funds in lieu of claiming Social Security. But I do suggest that waiting past FRA to claim a higher benefit may be wiser than claiming earlier and investing the Social Security money, trying to beat the 8% yearly benefit growth realized by waiting to claim. It's an unfortunate reality that high-return/low-risk investments are very difficult to find these days, and most seniors are loathe to put their money in high-risk investments to get higher returns.

Again, everyone's situation is different, and each must choose based upon their own circumstances. Many who contact us about their Social Security options intend to continue working beyond their full retirement age. Those folks might adopt a strategy where they delay past their FRA to get a higher Social Security benefit for the rest of their life, made possible because they are still working and earning (rather than withdrawing from investments). If they're in good health and will achieve at least average life expectancy, they will not only enjoy a much higher monthly benefit, but they'll also receive more in cumulative lifetime benefits by waiting longer to claim Social Security.

Finally, often lost in the argument to claim at or after FRA is that, for a married couple, a surviving spouse receives 100% of the benefit the deceased spouse was receiving at death. That surviving spouse benefit will either be a smaller FRA amount or a large-

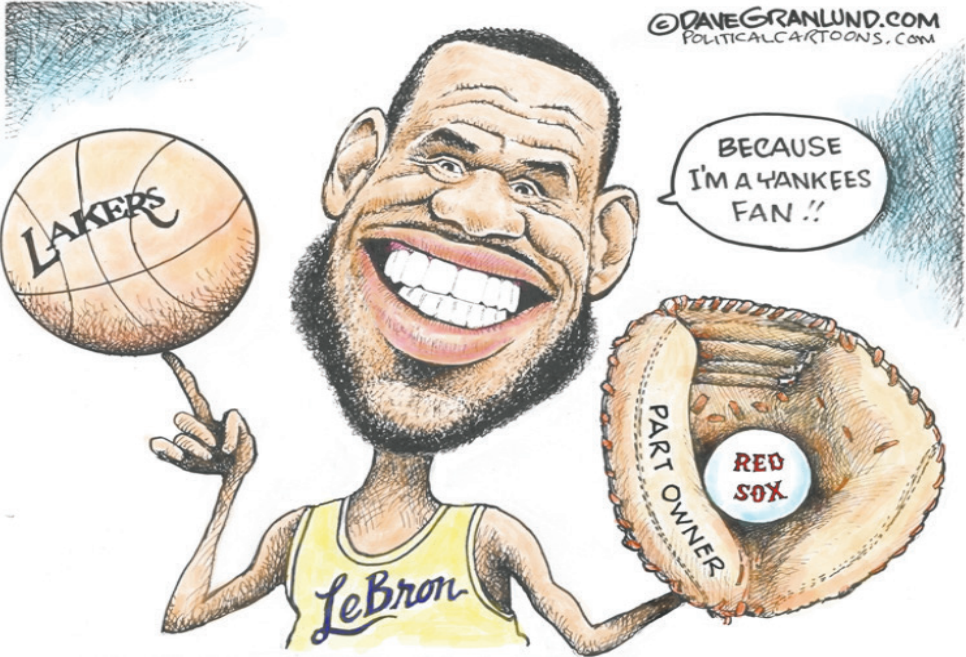
SOCIAL SECURITY MATTERS

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Corrections will be printed in the same section where the error originally occurred.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thank you to the Council on Aging

As two individuals that participated in the March 20th St. Patrick's Day Corned Beef and Cabbage curbside pickup luncheon, we thank the Huntington Council on Aging for this wonderful opportunity to obtain such a well-prepared meal. The presentation which included the meal, shopping

bag, horseradish sauce, cookies and even some chocolate coins was very impressive. We also thank the volunteers that help prepare, service, and were the car hops. It was a well-organized operation.

Eileen Watson and Bob Goewey  
Huntington

Try Kubb for safe fun during pandemic

We are all familiar with cornhole, horseshoes, volleyball, etc., but what about a game of "Kubb?" Kubb is a Swedish game of skill and strategy and is played in an arena measuring 2 feet by 16 feet called the pitch. The basic object of the game is to toss wooden dowels underarm in an attempt to topple your opponent's baseline blocks of wood, which in Swedish are called kubbs. In the center of the field is the king, which is similar to the eight ball in pocket billiards. The game can be played one-on-one or up

to six players against six. This game can be enjoyed by the entire family. To learn more about this fantastic sport just go online and search "TV broadcast of 2018 U.S. Kubb Open Beloit, Wisconsin." Play the video.

Kubb sets can be purchased online also, but be sure the game is regulation in size and made of hardwood.

Kubb is said to be a game that unites people!

Bill Paul  
Subscriber

SUPPORTING BLANDFORD



Liz Massa and Russ LaPierre of the Hilltown Hikers visit Old Falls Road in Blandford. The Western Mass Hilltown Hikers support the Town of Blandford and its ongoing endeavor to gain back access to Cobble Mountain Road. The water may go to Springfield, but the land and most importantly it's history still belongs to the Hilltowns.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor should be 500 words or less in length. We require letter writers to include his or her name, town of residence and home telephone number. We must authenticate authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous or contain unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, defamation of character and offensive language. All unknown or alleged facts and quotations offered by the author need to cite credible, unbiased sources.

Mail letter to Country Journal, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069 or mail your letter to: [countryjournal@turley.com](mailto:countryjournal@turley.com).

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OPINION

HILLTOWN HISTORY

Something About Mary

By Deborah Daniels

Mary Lyon was a hard-working woman who never stopped working hard. She refused to wait for a better tomorrow for women’s education. Here’s her story as we celebrate March, Women’s History Month.

She was born into a farming family in 1797. Her father, who had fought in the Revolutionary War, died when she was six years old. That left her mother with seven children and a 100-acre farm to run in the hills of Buckland, MA. Yes, you can still see the cellar hole remains of Mary Lyon’s birthplace in Buckland, off Route 112. Her mother remarried and moved away taking the five smallest children when Mary was 13 years old. Mary took over the running of the house with her brother Aaron in charge of the farm. He paid her one silver dollar per week as her wage. She would have been in charge of cooking meals, baking bread, preserving fruit and vegetables from the garden, making cheese, butter, soap and candles, doing laundry, sewing clothes, weaving linens and cleaning the house. What a relief her mother took the five younger siblings!

She had attended local schools until she was 13 years old. At the age of 17, she was invited to teach Major Josiah Griswold’s 12 children in his house. The classroom was in his third-floor former ballroom, according to Sue Samoriski, current owner of this 1816 central chimney house with 12 fireplaces. The house is on Old Upper Street in Buckland and has been featured in a documentary about Mary Lyon.

Mary Lyon charmed the children and earned a reputation as an excellent teacher. She went on to teach school to four- to 10-year-old children in Shelburne. Teaching the three Rs was easy until the older boys joined the classroom on rainy days when they could not work outside. That was typical for education in a one room school. At the age of 20, she attended Sanderson Academy in Ashfield and then Byfield Seminary in Eastern Mass. She cobbled together time as a student along with teaching duties. She worked as a teacher in New Hampshire and at Ipswich Female Seminary, also studying for a time at Amherst College. She met many prominent men and women involved in educa-

tion who would later support her efforts to create a school. She was influenced by their bold philosophy on education, and she impressed many of them with her abilities as an educator.

By 1834 she left the position of assistant principal at Ipswich Seminary so she could devote herself to raising money to create her own institution. She traveled throughout New England asking people for donations, writing circulars and ads announcing plans for a women’s school. She developed a curriculum, visited schools, and spoke with educators about how to design a school. She persuaded influential men to back her idea. The town of South Hadley donated \$8,000 to have her seminary located there. She carried a green velvet drawstring bag to collect donations in and no donation was too small. It worked despite the prevailing idea that a college for women was a ridiculous notion. At the time there were 120 colleges in America for men, none for women. It took her three years to raise the funds and to design and plan her school. She was determined to make it affordable to women of modest means with high academic standards and not limited to domestic science.

Mount Holyoke Female Seminary in South Hadley opened with 80 students in 1837. The students had to be at least 17 years old. They had to pass an entrance exam in English grammar, math, U.S. History, and geography. Mary Lyon asked that they bring a Bible, an atlas, a dictionary, and two spoons to school. No forks? The brand-new building had no running water, small stoves in each room, housing 2 students, who had to fetch their own firewood. Students were expected to work to keep the \$60 yearly tuition bill low. They were organized into domestic work circles of five women who rotated doing the cooking, cleaning, laundry and office work. They had 16-hour school days — up at 5 a.m., bedtime was 9:15 p.m. Everyone was required to attend church daily and make private devotions twice a day! Mary Lyon believed in exercise, so students were required to walk one mile daily after breakfast. Seven courses in science and math had to be mastered in their three years of education. Mary Lyon taught chemistry as well as administered the seminary. She engaged stu-



Mary Lyon’s birthplace as painted by Edwin Romanzo Elmer in 1904.

Online Images



Stamps of Mount Holyoke College graduates including Mary Lyon, founder; Lucy Stone class of 1839, women’s rights activist; Emily Dickinson class of 1849, poet; Frances Perkins class of 1902, Secretary of Labor under Franklin Delano Roosevelt; Dr. Virginia Apgar class of 1929, MD who developed newborn assessment scale, universally used in hospitals and women suffragettes.

Submitted photo by Deborah Daniels

dents by having guest lecturers, field trips and interactive classroom discussion as methods of teaching. The school was a success. The following year 200 students applied to Mount Holyoke and 90 students were accepted. She served as President of the school for 12 years. Mary Lyon died at age 52 of erysipelas, sepsis from a skin infection most likely caught from a student.

Mary Lyon encouraged her students to “go where no one else will go. Do what no one else will do.” Graduates became teachers and missionaries, that scattered all over America and the



Mount Holyoke Female Seminary main building in South Hadley, taken in 1886.



Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley.

world, not just New England. There is no doubt education nationwide improved under the leadership of Mount Holyoke Female Seminary graduates. It became a four-year college for women in 1893 and continues today. The postage stamps reflect a sample of Mt. Holyoke’s illustrious graduates. And it all started with a Buckland farm girls’ vision of what education could be. Hats off to Polly Anderson of the Buckland Historical Society and Sue Samoriski of the Mary Lyon Foundation for local schools for sharing information. Check out Wednesday’s “What’s it?” on the Buckland Historical Society’s website. You will be amazed by what you learn.

*Do you have a memory or historical curiosity from the Hilltowns that you’d like to share with your neighbors? Send your story and photos to countryjournal@turley.com.*

SECURITY from page 4

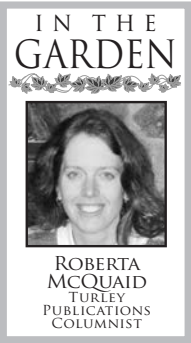
er (e.g., age 70) amount, depending upon when the higher earning spouse claimed. Point is, if you are married, when you claim may also affect your spouse’s survivor benefit, so life expectancy of both spouses should always be included in the decision on when to claim. In any case, from what you’ve written I believe that your choice to claim at your FRA in order to preserve your high-return investments was a prudent move for your personal circumstances. And I admire the careful thought you put into that decision.

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*Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.*

Just about a month ago I decided to re-pot a number of my “houseplants.” I figured the timing was good, since before too long the plants would be responding to longer days with increased growth. They would relish new soil and more room for their roots to sprawl in the bigger pots I would provide. While I have never really felt that my outdoor “green thumb” has transferred to indoor plants, I’ve managed not to kill enough of them so that one morning of February vacation was spent with my hands in potting soil liberating them from a fate of being root bound in the same tired soil.

One of my favorite houseplants is the Gerber daisy. Most people think of this plant as a summer annual, and it technically is here in the northeast, but frugal Yankees (i.e. Mom and I) have been keeping them alive through the winter for years now. Its pretty pastel daisy-type flowers remind me of those the prankster clowns use to squirt water in the faces of unsuspecting folks. In our house we call it the “happy plant.” I had three good-sized pots of them, all with tired soil. It showed by how yel-



IN THE GARDEN  
ROBERTA MCQUAID  
TURLEY PUBLICATIONS COLUMNIST

Fun with houseplants

low-green the leaves were. I moistened my compost-based Coast of Maine potting soil and proceeded to pry the plants apart, giving the divisions a fresh pot and a splash of liquid fertilizer once back on the windowsill. I am happy to say I now have one flower and a few others awaiting in the crown! Success!

Three other plants typically grown as annuals were saved from winter’s chill and brought indoors as an experiment. One was a lobelia plant that grew in a ceramic pot by my front door all summer. Usually lobelias peter out during the dog days, but this newer variety kept right on blooming right through the heat. For the fun of it, I cut it back in late October and put it, pot and all in my mud room. Lo and behold, it started to grow. I provided it with light, some fresh soil and said liquid fertilizer, and it is actually sporting a few blossoms right now. I am only hoping it will be happy indoors for several more weeks; thankfully lobelias are fairly cold hardy so I can probably get it outside earlier than most flowering plants.

Another annual I overwintered is heliotrope. Given to me as a gift last

summer, its purple, vanilla-baby powder scented flowers provided a olfactory pick-me-up whenever needed. Admittedly, this plant struggled over the winter but with fresh soil and a brighter window it is thriving once more. The same goes for a coleus that I got from a my friend Jean a year and a half ago. I decided take cuttings of all three to increase my coffers and happily both the coleus and the lobelia have rooted. It’s been tricky to keep the almost furry heliotrope leaves from wilting while awaiting roots. More research necessary there.

Late last spring I made a mixed planter with succulent type plants for my porch. I used what I had, including two tiny kalachoe plants rescued from where I don’t recall. They looked so pathetic that I planted them almost in the same hole to make one decent-sized plant. But alas, in just three months of good soil and a warm porch they tripled in size and by February were full of aphids. After a soapy bath they were separated, each given their own pot. Now, one has flower buds! I have read that kalanchoes are easy to propagate. Simply take a cutting of terminal growth two to three inches



HUNTINGTON

Highway truck slotted for Annual Town Meeting

By Peter Spotts

HUNTINGTON — Budget season is a difficult task each of year of prioritizing where to allocate town funds and this year the Highway Department is looking to bolster its fleet with a new F-450 pickup to replace the one-ton pickup truck that has given the department a myriad of issues this past year.

Leading up to winter storm season, the truck failed state inspection due to a cracked frame, which had to be welded, then spent a couple weeks in the shop for mechanical work to pass inspection. Highway Superintendent Charles Dazelle said they’ve spent about \$12,000 trying

to keep the one-ton on the road this winter and it’s 12 years old; highway trucks are typically replaced around 10 years.

“We had to scramble a lot and there’s still issues. We’re trying to just feather it along and just go from there,” Dazelle said. “On the highway, they just get way overused and it’s way over its life expectancy. A lot of hard miles.”

With the cost of the truck estimated be around \$70,000, the Board of Selectmen had to make the tough decision to inform Fire Chief Josh Ellinger the new vehicle for the Fire Department will have to wait another year.

“Unfortunately, because of what happened to the highway dump truck,

we have to replace that this year, [that] we weren’t planning on,” Chairman Ed Renauld said. “I think that’s going to have to wait another year, Josh.”

Funding for the trucks comes from the town’s vehicle stabilization fund, which the board doesn’t want to drain all at once.

“I don’t want to drain that in one year after we’ve taken several to build it up,” Renauld said. “It a tough decision josh. That highway truck is a must have for Chipper. We have to have that in service... We can’t push it down the road anymore. That’s going to be our number one priority to get that taken care of.”

The Board did praise the work

Ellinger has been doing and his proposed budget for fiscal 2022 as he worked to level fund all but one account in his budget.

“I’m level funding everything all the way across the board, all except vehicle maintenance because I wanted to make some electrical improvements to the rescue truck to putt in some more chargers for some of our lights,” Ellinger said. “It’s pretty important for me to have those charges mounted on the truck that way they’re always charged and available.”

“Your budget looks good Josh,” Chairman Ed Renauld said. “You were a good hire.”

LUCK OF THE LUNCH



Aimee Burnham helps prepare oven roasted vegetables for the Huntington Council on Aging's corn beef and cabbage luncheon on Saturday, March 20. Over 100 meals were prepared and picked up by Huntington residents.



Kat Peterson and a Huntington resident are in the spirit of St. Patrick's Day as Peterson helps hand out lunches.



Kat Peterson, Huntington COA chair, goes from car to car to deliver lunches.

Submitted photos by Peri Sossaman

Scavenger hunt throughout town concludes Sunday

HUNTINGTON — The recreation committee is planning an Easter scavenger hunt for children and grandchildren of Huntington residents. Participants must sign up by calling Vicki at 413-667-0085 or email [huntingtonrec@gmail.com](mailto:huntingtonrec@gmail.com).

Clues will be able to be spotted throughout town at various locations

for a few days so participants can complete at their leisure. On Sunday, March 28, committee members will be available with a goodie bag for those who signed up and completed the hunt at Pettis field. Time to be determined.

Participants should leave name, address, phone number, email and ages of children participating.

NORWICH HILL

The First Congregational Church of Huntington reminds everyone even though our physical doors are closed until further notice, we are most definitely open for worship, praise, ministry, and fellowship. We are an Open and Affirming Church inviting, welcoming, and affirming everyone — seekers, believers, and wonderers alike — on their journey of faith, to join in 10 a.m. Zoom Sunday worship.

This Sunday is Palm Sunday. Our reading from Mark 11:1-11, invites us to hear the familiar story and wonder what relevance it has for us these days?

On Thursday, April 1, we will have a Maundy Thursday Service of scripture, candlelight, and communion at 7 p.m. by Zoom as we remember

the passion of Christ and look forward to the dawning of Easter joy.

The pastor is always available to speak with you. If you do not receive our emails and would like to connect with our Zoom worship service and/or fellowship time, please contact Pastor Carol at [firstchurchofhuntington@gmail.com](mailto:firstchurchofhuntington@gmail.com) to receive the information you will need to participate or send us a message on Facebook.

Please use the phone numbers and email address provided to stay in touch or to contact the pastor. You are also invited to find us on Facebook at “Norwich Hill” for updates, information, and spiritual encouragement. For more information, please contact 413-667-3935 or 860-798-7771 or [firstchurchofhuntington@gmail.com](mailto:firstchurchofhuntington@gmail.com).

WILLIAMSBURG

VOTES

from page 1

and fire and police department personnel plan to be at the transfer station from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, March 27, and then again for most of the open hours — 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. — on Wednesday, March 31, to answer any questions residents may have about the project before the April 3 vote.

OPINION

GARDEN

from page 5

long, stripping off all but the top 2 or 3 leaves. Allow the stem to callus and then insert into a free-draining type of potting soil, one comprised of peat moss and perlite is ideal. Begin checking for roots in about a month.

Another plant that faced true liberation a month ago was an amaryllis that I received in a fancy clear container. The bulb was waxed, or maybe even covered in some kind of plastic. Hard to tell.. All you had to do was put it on the shelf, no potting up required. Something did not set well with me about this fancy new modus...they want you to throw it away afterwards! But I kept my comment to myself, thanked the person who gave it to me and watched as it bloomed, nicely, but on a shorter stem than what I am used to. Once the flowers had passed it looked as though another stem wanted to put out flower buds, but it just sort of sat there. I decided I would operate,

gently peeling the wax off the bulb. After planting in potting soil the amaryllis did bloom and has since put out healthy white roots this last month. Next it will grow a healthy crop of foliage then go dormant before blooming again next fall/winter.

It was a lot of fun to repot and experiment with my “houseplants.” Maybe I’ve had some success because not all of them were intended for the house all along. Or maybe my luck is changing!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to [ekennedy@turley.com](mailto:ekennedy@turley.com) with “Gardening Question” in the subject line.



# SCHOOLS & YOUTH

## AGREEMENT

from page 1

towns have approved the revised document; Montgomery and Russell have not approved the document yet as discussions continued last month around changes focused on other post-employment benefits and withdrawing from the district requirements.

“There are no towns considering leaving but rather the discussion is to ensure that appropriate guidelines are in the revised document to avoid the issues that arose when Worthington was able to get special legislation passed to leave the district,” Superintendent David Hopson said. “For whatever reason the special legislation that allowed Worthington to withdraw without a settlement with the district did not include them paying their share of OPEB liabilities, meaning that those were passed along to the remaining six towns.”

The points discussed at the meeting included provisions in place if a town wants to leave the district, something that came along with that is the leaving town’s portion of OPEB. There are new federal guidelines saying that OPEB costs should be allocated ahead of time rather than being paid throughout the year.

Hopson said the district’s current OPEB cost basis is over 20 million dollars and each town has a share of this cost; towns cannot leave the district without paying for their liabilities to the district and remaining towns. This was an important discussion point. MARS representative Jay Barry called withdrawing a “big deal” and that it was

understandable there was a lot of discussion on the issue. There current system has the School Committee discuss the withdrawal of a town before that town votes, but other strategies for this process were discussed including giving voters more information on the district and the costs associated between the school and the town before the vote on withdrawing.

Gateway Legal Counsel Russell Dupere said the only way for a town to withdraw from the district without paying OPEB is if they owe nothing, and they’ve paid all debt due. MARS is adding additional language to include these concerns about OPEB liability in the advised regional agreement.

“Regional agreements throughout the state make clear that a town withdrawing from a regional school district is a significant event. It has ramifications both for the withdrawing town and the remaining towns,” MARS representative Mac Reid said. “The issues related to a town withdrawing will be spelled out in an amended regional agreement that is developed at the time of withdrawal.”

Since Worthington left the district, the school committee is taking careful steps to make sure a withdrawal from a town has more steps and more commu-

nication between the withdrawing town and the rest of the district.

The regional agreement was first adopted in 1959 and was last amended in 1976, so the Facilitated Discussion Committee spent 2018-19 school year discussing and agreeing on amendments that would make the Gateway Regional Agreement compliant with the Department of Elementary and

Secondary regulations and state law. For the current agreement, the primary change includes that each member town would have the exact same number

of school committee members, though their votes will be weighted to conform to state and federal laws.

Reid said the most important changes to the regional agreement included simple language changes that made the agreements current use clearer for the present and future use of the document.

“One of the few additions to this amended regional agreement is language which requires a sub-committee of the regional school committee, made up of elected and at-large members, to review the Regional Agreement every five years and report any suggestions to the Regional School Committee,” Reid said.

The regional agreement is a doc-

ument that describes how a regional school district functions as well as its legal and financial intersection with member towns, the agreement is straightforward and hasn’t needed many amendments as a result. The school committee will review the agreement in five years and discuss if there are needed changes, but the agreement is meant to outline the major actions of the district and the member towns. Hopson said the school and two towns who haven’t approved the agreement are getting closer to ironing out the differences between the parties.

“We believe we have the differences down to a small number and are still working out potential language changes,” he said. “We are attempting to schedule additional discussions to review potential language changes. It is likely that with the changes being proposed by Montgomery and Russell that the approval process will need to be undertaken — i.e., a meeting of representatives from all six towns to vote on proposing these changes to the school committee, a school committee vote to approve, and then move the newly revised agreement back to all six towns for ratification. Based upon nearly three decades of working on these changes, I will make no prediction on if we’ll get six towns to agree with the revisions in either regular or special town meetings.”

The amended agreement was a scheduled for further discussion on March 16, but it was cancelled and will be rescheduled for a future date. For more information, visit grsd.org.

“Regional agreements throughout the state make clear that a town withdrawing from a regional school district is a significant event.”

MARS representative  
Mac Reid

## WORTHINGTON

### BLAIS

from page 1

Reinke said. “The department needs to be certified by July 1; on our budget we haven’t planned for this.”

Currently, Worthington will sponsor its officers to go to the full-time police academy, but it doesn’t pay them for the training. With the new regulations passed at the end of December, now the town is on the hook for the financial part of the training as well, and all officers will have to get the full-time training.

Reinke said beyond the funding issue, once they are full-time certified, they won’t want to work just a few hours a week anymore. He’s requested two full-time officers in this year’s budget, including himself, and is worried if it doesn’t happen this year the town may not find full-time officers in the future.

“How am I going to get these people to come in on any level? How am I going to get those guys to come in anymore?” he said. “How am I going to train them? They’re not going to give up a year of their life...to do something for eight hours a week.”

“It wasn’t the intent of this law to do away with part-time police forces,” Blais said. “I want to make sure that is out there. The intent is not to do that and that is certainly a recognition of the concerns that were being raised by rural communities.”

Additionally, Reinke said his officers, and those of small departments like the hilltowns do more work. He compared the situation in a city department like Springfield, where there’s a different officer to handle each step of the arrest process, whereas his officers have to arrest, take the person to lockup, do booking, and the paperwork after.

“Part-time departments like Williamsburg, when we arrest somebody, when we deal with somebody on the street, we deal with them from beginning to end,” he said. “We do the whole job. We get called reserve or part-time, but we do more work, and I don’t think anybody realizes that.”

“We need to understand any potential implications as you are all going into your budget season,” Blais said. “We

want to make sure you have the information you need to get these questions answered.”

The first topic discussed was the how the town clerks in the communities handled running election last year despite all the changes caused by COVID-19. Blais had nothing but praise to give.

“I think it’s important to recognize our town clerks really stepped up in a way that was extraordinary in covid and I just want to echo and reiterate my thanks to our town clerks because they’ve really gone above and beyond,” Blais said.

Blais told the board she was upset with Gov. Charlie Baker vetoing a community economic development bill she had been a part of trying to pass.

“One of the pieces I picked up and really pushed for was the rural jobs act, or rural funds. It would have incentivized investments in rural communities,” she said. “It was one of seven items the Governor vetoed.”

Chairman Charley Rose thanked Blais for her communication regarding the vaccination situation and his disappointment with how poorly the situation was handled and appointments being online-only when it rolled out. Blais had reached out to her district towns on Feb. 18 to express her frustration with the vaccination rollout and the feedback she received from constituents during that difficult time.

“I cannot tell you how many constituents I’ve heard from by email or by phone and its heart breaking because the goal posts kept changing and people were literally spending hours online refreshing their screens trying to get access to a vaccination appointment,” Blais said during the board meeting. “And I think we all know that a mass vaccination site at a mall in Springfield is not the way that rural communities work.”

Blais welcomes comments and feedback from the district. She can be reached at 413-362-9453 or natalie.blais@mahouse.gov.

## School targets grant to bolster programming

WORTHINGTON — R.H. Conwell Elementary School’s After-School Program is applying for a Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education grant.

The 21st Century Community Learning Center Supporting Additional Learning Time Grant aims to provide interactive, relevant, and

engaging programming during the school year and summer that meets the specific academic, social emotional learning, and developmental needs of students.

If awarded the grant would begin July 1st, 2021. For more information, contact After-School Program Coordinator Shannon Madden at smadden@hr-k12.org.

### News, photo publication policy

As a community newspaper our focus has always been local news. While we try very hard to run upcoming events as a public service whenever space allows, space does not allow us to run an upcoming event repeatedly. Our policy is to limit publication of upcoming events to one article in advance of the event and, space permitting, a second brief reminder article the week prior to an event, and to run those articles in only one section of the paper, and not in multiple sections simultaneously.

All such public service announcements and photos are subject to space limitations and deadlines, therefore publication cannot be guaranteed. Whenever copy for the week exceeds allotted space, news copy will take priority, and public service copy is the first area to be cut. We also reserve the right to edit for style and space, and are under no obligation to print lists of sponsorships, or articles that arrive after deadline, unless time and space allows.

**Deadline is Monday at NOON, on holidays it is Friday at 2 p.m.**





BLANDFORD

Town meeting approves Owners Project Manager



Chairman of the Planning Board Mike Hutchins introduces zoning bylaw changes at a special town meeting on Monday, March 22. Submitted photo by Mary Kronholm

**By Mary Kronholm**

BLANDFORD — Another landmark-making town meeting which lasted less than 15 minutes secured \$120,000 for an Owners Project Manager, who will provide assistance finalizing a project scope and cost for a new highway garage and rehabilitating the existing highway garage so as to create a new Fire Station.

Six articles covered prior fiscal year invoices, three more transferred water department funds to cover breaks, transfer station salaries, and the town’s IT Support were all voted on as a consent agenda.

Two more articles changed town bylaws to accurately reflect Board of Health fees and increasing a bond to cover any damages caused by transportation of loads in excess of ten tons from \$2,000 per mile to \$25,000 per mile.

The remaining articles, 14 through 30, were all amending zoning bylaws which was reported on favorably by Planning Board Chairman Mike Hutchins.

The zoning bylaw changes were all considered with consent agenda as well. Hutchins said that the zoning bylaws were “basically a clean-up” of the language and organizing them appropriately. The only significant change was under enforcement, and anyone in non-compliance could be fined up to \$300 a day. There is no minimum fine for lesser infractions, but compliance is mandatory.

All 30 articles on the Special Town Meeting warrant passed unanimously by 22 registered voters in attendance.

Chairman of the Municipal Light Board Peter Langmore provided an update on the town’s fiber optic installation at the close of the meeting. According to Langmore, Whip City Fiber is connecting everyone as quickly as possible, and the goal is to connect everybody. The town currently stands at 73% of all homes signed on. Langmore also reminded residents that the town has received a grant to cover the \$99 activation fee for all homes owned by anyone 65 or over.

The first Fiber Service Area which includes North Street/Chester Road, North Blandford Road and all intersecting adjacent roads is expected to go live first at the end of May or early June. Weather, according to Langmore, has created multiple delays.

The Select Board met prior to the Special Town Meeting to review warrant articles. They also discussed, with the Finance Committee, how best to cover the cost of emergency repairs to Russell Stage Road.

The board and finance approved taking \$55,000 from capital expenditures and \$30,000 from the reserve account to cover the road maintenance.

The board also approved changing the date of the town election to June 26, with hours to be from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. to follow the Annual Town Meeting, now scheduled for June 21. Voting by mail will also be available for the town election.

ADDING CONNECTIONS



Fiber-optic installation is nearing completion in Fiber Service Area 4 which includes North Street, Chester Road and all adjacent roads. Fiber splicing was being done Monday on North Blandford Road, which is the last step before running fiber to a home. Submitted photo by Peter Langmore

BRUSH CONTROL



Blandford Fire Chief Dave Mottor puts out a brush fire at Watson Park on Monday, March 22. According to Deputy Chief Tom Ackley, the fire had been smoldering since Friday or Saturday but wasn’t noticed or reported until Monday afternoon. Photos by Mary Kronholm

# Sunrise Easter Service

Sunday, April 4th, 6:30am

Littleville Dam, Huntington

## All Are Welcome!

Sponsored by Pioneer Valley Assembly of God

### NOTICE

ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.



Fire Chief Dave Mottor and Deputy Fire Chief Tom Ackley responded to the brush fire with Engine 1.



The brush fire smolders before the Fire Department put it out.

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## WESTHAMPTON

### Four Finance Committee seats open at Town Caucus April 12

WESTHAMPTON — The Town Caucus to nominate local officials for candidacy to be elected at the Annual Town Election will be held at 6:30 p.m. on April 12, 2021 at Westhampton Highway Garage.

The following positions are available for nomination. All positions have one available seat for a three-year term unless stated otherwise: Selectboard;

Board of Assessors; Board of Assessors, two-year term; Board of Assessors, one-year term; Planning Board; Planning Board, two-year term; Finance Committee, four seats; Library Trustees, two seats; Hampshire Regional School Committee; Westhampton Elementary School Committee; Moderator, one-year term; Tree Warden, one-year term; and Constable (Center District).

## CUMMINGTON

### Caucus scheduled for March 31

CUMMINGTON — The Town Caucus will be held at the Community House on Wednesday, March 31, at 7 p.m. for the purpose of nominating candidates for the Town Officers to be elected at the Annual Town Election on May 10.

This Caucus is called under the provisions of Chapter 53, Section 121 of the Mass General Laws and will be called to order by the Town Clerk, after which a chairman and a secretary will be chosen. The following positions will be available for nomination. All positions

have one vacancy for a three-term unless otherwise stated: Selectman; Assessor; Moderator, one year term; Vocational School Committee member; Almoner of Charitable Funds; Commissioner of Trust Funds; Water Commissioner; Trustee of the Bryant Free Library, five-year term; Finance Committee, two seats; Board of Health; Planning Board, one seat for a one-year term; Planning Board, one seat for a five-year term; Cummington Recreation & Pettingill Memorial Field Committee, three seats; Municipal Light Plant Board, two seats.

## CHESTERFIELD



### It's a boy!



CHESTERFIELD — Jodie (Haftel) Maisfehl and Lillian (Smith) Maisfehl are proud to announce that their son, Sanford Bernard Maisfehl, was born at home in Chester, CT on Feb. 13, 2021. He weighed 9 pounds 5 ounces and measured 21 inches. The Grandparents are Arnold Haftel, late of Middletown, CT, and Arthur and Eleanor Smith of Chesterfield, MA. He joins big sister Hester, age 11, big brother Northrop, age 7, and big sister Ardith, age 4.

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# RUSSELL

## LEARNING HISTORY



Liz Massa and Debbie Daniels visit the land where the Woronoco Schoolhouse used to stand.



Kim Kelliher touches the former steps of the old School House.  
*Submitted photos*

## Holy Week services begin

RUSSELL — The Holy Family Parish has a full schedule for Holy Week, beginning on Saturday, March 27, up through Easter Sunday on April 4.

The church is using a HEPA air filter and anyone entering the church for Mass must sanitize their hands, wear a mask, and observe six feet of social distancing from others.

Palm/Passion Sunday Vigil will be at 5 p.m. on Saturday, March 27. Blessed Palms will be available as people exit the church.

Palm/Passion Sunday Mass on Sunday, March 28, will take place at 8:15 a.m. and 11 a.m. Blessed Palms will be available as people exit the church.

Holy Thursday Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper Transfer of the Eucharist begins at 6 p.m. on Thursday, April 1. Please bring any type of bell, all bells will be rung during the Gloria.

Friday, April 2, Good Friday, will feature the Celebration of the Passion of the Lord with readings, Veneration of the Cross by bowing, and Communion Service at 6 p.m.

Saturday, April 3, will be the Easter Vigil Liturgy with Service of Light, Procession, Proclamation, Readings, Renewal of Baptismal Promises and Eucharist starting at 7:30 p.m. Please bring any type of bell, all bells will be rung during the Gloria. No candles will be handed out due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The week culminates with the Mass of Resurrection on Easter Sunday, April 4. Services will begin at 8:15 a.m. and 11 a.m.

## PIECE OF HISTORY



The Bridge Street Bridge was closed by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation to all vehicular and pedestrian traffic in 1985. This historic open-spandrel, rib-arch was built in 1924 and is one of the few examples of this rare bridge type that remain. It is an arch bridge with a total length of 400 feet, consisting of two 65-foot approach spans and three arch spans which are approximately 104 feet, 62 feet, and 104 feet, respectively. At this crossing, the Westfield River is in a rocky gorge approximately 50 feet below the bridge's deck. The bridge's middle piers are located on an island in the middle of the river.  
*Submitted photo*

## Find magic at the Russell Library

RUSSELL — Something magical can happen when reading any of the books on display in the young adult section of the Russell Public Library.

Depending on what someone likes to read, there are many different genres including poetry, adventure, graphic novels, historical fiction, and fantasy books.

The words that describe these books

are “Bold! Explosive!,” “The best book I’ve read in ages,” “Impossible to put down,” and “A charming, intriguingly plotted novel.”

A few recommendations are “This One Summer” by award winning authors Jillian & Tamaki Mariko, and “The Crossover” by Kwame Alexander, a John Newberry Medal winner. So many good books to choose from.



The young adult section of the Russell Public Library is filled with great reads this spring.  
*Submitted photo*

## MILL MOSEYING



The Hilltown Hikers take a stroll through Strathmore Mill #1 and the carriage house on Old Route 20 Woronoco in Russell. Submitted photo



Kim Kelliher, Karen McTaggart, Lyle Congdon, Debbie Daniels, and Liz Massa gathered for a history hike through the old mill last weekend.



## CHESTER

### Nomination papers due Friday

CHESTER — The annual Chester Town Election will be held on Saturday, May 1. The following offices are up for election and nomination papers must be picked up from the Town Clerk's by Wednesday, March 24, completed by obtaining 20 valid active Chester voters and returned to the Town Clerk by Friday, March 26.

The following positions will be on the ballot. All positions are for three-year terms: Selectboard, one seat; Library Trustee, two seats; Board of Health, one seat; Board of Assessor, one seat; School Committee, one seat; Electric Light Commissioner, one seat; and Moderator, one seat, two-year term.

Anyone can run for any office if they are a valid active voter and care about Chester. If someone is interested in picking up a nomination paper, please call 413-354-6603 and leave their name and phone number. Please repeat the phone number as sometimes it cuts out of the message. Information can also be sent to [rdalesandro@townofchester.net](mailto:rdalesandro@townofchester.net) and the Town Clerk will make an appointment to meet with the candidate.

A candidate needs just 20 signatures that can be read and are valid active voters. The Town Clerk recommends each potential nominee gets as many as possible, maybe 30, in case someone is inactive or not a registered voter.

### Easter Egg Hunt to be held April 3

CHESTER — The Chester Recreational Committee and the Chester Hill Association are co-sponsoring an Easter Egg Hunt for local children on Saturday, April 3, at 1 p.m. at Emery Field.

Children should bring their own Easter basket or bag for their eggs. The Easter bunny will be making an appear-

ance as well. Light refreshments will be served. All health and safety protocols will be followed to protect the safety of all participants. In case of rain or inclement weather, the activity will be held the following Saturday, April 10, at the same time.

Any questions may be directed to Jason Forgue anytime at 413-205-6504.

## BECKET

### Cultural Council announces grant awards for the 2021 season

BECKET — The Becket Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Mass Cultural Council, recently announced the names of local organizations receiving awards for its next funding cycle of 2021.

According to local Council's priorities as published on the MCC website, these grants typically support a variety of artistic projects and activities in Becket -- including exhibits, festivals, field trips, short-term artist residencies, or performances in

schools, workshops, and lectures.

Grants for 2021 are awarded to IS183 "Learning through Art," Becket Arts Center "Music around the World," Berkshire Music School "Music for Young Minds," Becket Athenaeum "Storytelling 2021," Becket Athenaeum Museum Passes, and Sevenars.

Application forms and more information about the Local Cultural Council Program are available online at [www.mass-culture.org](http://www.mass-culture.org).

## TRAFFIC

*from page 1*

"They made their points about the noise and traffic. The Town will be in contact with State Police truck team to help enforce regulations on the commercial vehicles and our police department will continue to monitor speeds," Town Administrator William Caldwell said. "We will also look at how the road and roadsides may be made safer through the use of Complete Streets grant funds."

Caldwell is currently working on the information for the Complete Streets grant, and while no specific plans are being made yet, he assures that these roads will be considered for the grant. The town is in the process of getting assessing maps and property cards online so they can figure out a plan for the roadside of Algeria and Bonny Rigg Hill roads. Both Heilman and Benton have been gathering data on the truck routes, noise, and consistency on these roads. They both feel that there are better routes for these trucks to take, and, if they choose to take residential roads, the noise of the brakes should be cut to a minimum.

Heilman and Benton said they understand the importance of big trucks breaking for safety reasons, but they feel that the constant noise of the loud air brakes is from more than just braking for safety. Though if the trucks are constantly breaking for safety reasons then Heilman and Benton feel that the speed limit on Algeria and Bonny Rigg Hill roads should be addressed and re-worked to a slower speed, so trucks don't need to use their brakes as much.

In the Feb. 17 meeting, both Heilman and Benton spoke during pub-

lic input and requested to be on a future agenda to properly speak about the truck issues on their road, and they were scheduled on March 17, where both residents made fair arguments that the truck traffic on their roads can be dangerous to the residents on both Algeria and Bonny Rigg Hill roads.

"We've been working on this since last years, so we have all our ducks in a row," Heilman said "We've done the research and there are things that can be proposed to solve these issues."

Three major points were discussed — pedestrian safety, truck driver safety in using engine brakes, and the fact it'd be a difficult bylaw to enforce. The State Police's truck team was mentioned as a way to help enforce that trucks stay slow on these residential roads, but an officer can't be stationed on these two streets all the time, so there would still be an issue with enforcing a new speed limit and advisories on only braking for emergencies.

"Indian Lake has put up a few signs on Bonny Rigg Hill Road and Algeria Road requesting that vehicles not use engine brake. An area business will also put up signs to be a good neighbor as trucks leave their location," Caldwell said. "We have to come up with 15 projects for Complete Streets. Bonny Rigg Hill road will be one of them."

Though the grant is still in process and progress on the project will not start yet as they don't have the grant, the town is working to address the concerns and finding ways to help the residents on these two roads.

## GOSHEN

### Ice update for Meltdown, tickets available through Monday, April 1

GOSHEN — The concrete block and flag on Hammond Pond for the 2021 Goshen meltdown is currently sitting on 14.5 inches of ice. Even though there have been warm daytime temperatures this week, overnight temperatures have been well below freezing, keeping the ice solidly secured to the shoreline.

The flag is there to mark the location in the event the block gets completely covered by snow. Connected to an electric clock via rope, the block will stop the clock when it falls through the ice, pulling the clock out of its wall socket and stopping it at the exact time it fell.

Contestants can buy tickets predicting the date and time, down to the minute, the block will fall for \$1 each. The deadline to purchase tickets is 11:59:59 p.m. on Thursday, April 1, however the block fell through the ice on March 11 in 2016 and March 28 last year, so it's best to get times in sooner rather than later.

Tickets purchased after April 1, unless postmarked on or before that date, will be returned. This date is weather dependent and will be irrelevant if the block falls through the ice before the deadline. Any tickets received within 24 hours of the block falling are not valid.

The annual fundraiser will support the Goshen Firefighters Association this year. The association is a registered 501(c)3 nonprofit organization supporting the delivery of fire and emergency services to the Town of Goshen and other communities in the region.

To purchase a ticket, mail checks payable to Hammond Acres Club, Inc. to 2021 Meltdown, P.O. Box 923, Williamsburg, MA 01096-0923.

For more information and updates on the state of the ice and contest, visit the Meltdown Facebook page or [goshenmafire.com/meltdown](http://goshenmafire.com/meltdown); or contact Bob Labrie at [bslabrie@msn.com](mailto:bslabrie@msn.com) or 413-268-7110.

### Sign-up for town trivia by April 16

GOSHEN — Join the Goshen COA for a Trivia Zoom on Friday, April 23, at 1 p.m.

In striving to alleviate some of the isolation and boredom we are all experiencing, the Goshen COA is launching Trivia Zoom for all town residents. Participants will have the opportunity to answer questions as in the game of Trivial Pursuit.

To make it more interesting, participants will be asked about their lovely town of Goshen, so read up on town history! Trivia will play for about one hour, cycling through participants sev-

eral times. At the end of the game, each persons' score will be tallied to determine the first, second, and third place winners. Prizes in the form of gift cards will be awarded as follows: First Place \$30 to Spruce Corner Restaurant; Second Place \$20 to Oliver's Farm Stand; Third Place \$10 to The Village Green.

In order to participate, contact Evelyn Culver at 413-268-3316 or [ematkc@aol.com](mailto:ematkc@aol.com) no later than Friday, April 16. She will then provide participants with the ID and Passcode. Space is limited, so don't delay.

### Curbside luncheon available April 13

GOSHEN — The Goshen COA will offer another curbside luncheon on Tuesday, April 13, with pickup from 11:30 a.m. to noon.

The COA will be handing out a baked ham dinner or stuffed chicken breast dinner, with a yummy dessert, brought to the community by Spruce Corner Restaurant and Red's Bakery.

The COA is asking for a \$5 donation. Please call Evelyn at 413-268-3316 for reservations before Wednesday, April 7.

The COA invites seniors to meet at the town parking lot on Wednesday, April 21, at 1 p.m. to walk around, bring a chair to relax in, and have a snack. Everyone will wear their masks and sit six feet apart.

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MIDDLEFIELD

Rabies clinic draws record numbers at Town Hall

MIDDLEFIELD — Animal Control officer Terry Donovan is used to having rabies clinics in town, and neighboring Chester, each year, which didn’t happen in 2020 thanks to COVID-19, but the case was not the same for 2021.

Donovan worked with Middlefield to find an outdoor location to host a clinic this year, knowing the demand for one in the hilltowns. The result was 40 animals being vaccinated on Saturday, March 20.

“With covid last year nobody had a rabies clinic, and everybody wanted one. This year I was like where can we have one outside,” Donovan said. “I asked the Middlefield Town administrator if we could use the driveway.”

The Town Hall driveway worked perfectly with the large, open space for cars to lineup and Donovan to visit each one to gather information. Donovan partnered with veterinarian Sharon Holt and her tech assistant Laura Wood to administer the vaccines.

During a typical year, Donovan said Chester normally has about 20 animals at her annual rabies vaccination clinic and then another 10 in Middlefield. This year’s 40 animals included a couple from Pittsfield and Becket, but most of them were from Donovan’s two towns.

“We did 40 dogs,” she said. “That’s a huge turnout for any rabies clinic around here. People were all very respectful of social distancing and keeping their masks on and I think it went very well.”

Middlefield Town Clerk Suzanne Lemieux and Assistant Lois Leonardo were on hand to provide licenses if needed.

“The animal owners were all very respectful of our covid situation and acted accordingly,” said Lemieux.

MIDDLEFIELD SENIOR CENTER

Lunch is served at the Senior Center, 169 Skyline Trail, Middlefield, each Wednesday at noon.

A \$3 donation is suggested. Reservations should be made, and meal choice stated, by calling and leaving a message at 413-623-9990 the Monday before. Pick-up and delivery are available. The menu on Wednesday, March 31, is Yankee pot roast with gravy, glazed carrots, whipped potatoes, whole wheat bread, and sugar cookies.

Annual Town Election, meeting, caucus dates set for May, June

MIDDLEFIELD — The Annual Town Election will be held on June 26 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Annual Town Meeting will begin at 2 p.m. on June 26 as well. The Town Caucus will be held on May 19 from 4 to 8 p.m.

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67					68						69			

### CLUES ACROSS

- Volcanic crater
- Long times
- Swedish rock group
- Having the means to do something
- Rods or spindles
- La \_\_ Tar Pits, Hollywood
- Missing soldiers
- Measuring instrument
- All of the components considered individually
- Play “\_\_ Irish Rose”
- Gene
- Barrels
- London-based soccer team
- Feline
- Breed of sheep
- Body part
- Doctors’ group
- One who follows the rules
- Cigarette residue

### CLUES DOWN

- Mother
- Jewish calendar month
- Jai \_\_, sport
- Establish again
- Swiss river
- Racetrack wager
- \_\_ but goodie
- Closeness
- Soviet Socialist Republic
- At right angles to a ship’s length
- Women’s undergarments
- Mountain stream
- Expresses pleasure
- Painful places on the body
- Automobile
- Scandinavian god of battle
- Expresses surprise
- Secret political clique
- Yields manila hemp
- River in central Italy
- Brain injury science acronym

### CLUES ACROSS

38. Ancient Greek sophist
39. Polish yeast cakes
40. Promotional materials
41. Pancakes made from buckwheat flour
42. Completed perfectly
43. Photo
44. A peninsula in SW Asia
45. The common gibbon
46. Disfigure
47. Ribonucleic acid
48. Japanese honorific
49. Pieces of music
52. Expressed pleasure
55. Having ten
56. Type of sword
60. Humble request for help
61. Eating houses
63. Italian Seaport
64. Cain and \_\_
65. Measure the depth
66. U. of Miami’s mascot
67. Political outsiders
68. Greek sorceress
69. Body part

### CLUES DOWN

33. Mental illness
34. A person from Asia
36. Father
37. General’s assistant (abbr.)
38. Cooked or prepared in a specified style
40. Large terrier
41. Hillsides
43. Golf score
44. Not or
46. Type of student
47. Flower cluster
49. Closes tightly
50. Saudi Arabian desert
51. Famed vaccine developer
52. Multi-function radar (abbr.)
53. Actress Jessica
54. Pay attention to
57. Beloved big screen pig
58. \_\_ Clapton, musician
59. Take a chance
61. Cost per mille
62. Helps little firms

# THIS WEEK’S HOROSCOPES

### ARIES

Mar 21/Apr 20

Don't shy away from the issues that keep cropping up this week, Aries. They may cause a few headaches, but they also are making the days much more exciting.

### CANCER

Jun 22/Jul 22

Cancer, you may be drawn to people who appeal to your analytical side this week. You could be interested in some intellectual debate and need a worthy sparring partner.

### LIBRA

Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, there might be a lot of activity going around you over the course of the week. Whether it's good or bad, you won't be directly involved in any of it.

### CAPRICORN

Dec 22/Jan 20

Listen to people around you to get a fresh perspective on various components of life that you share. People may have good ideas and be willing to share their advice.

### TAURUS

Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, many people like to live by the mantra “don’t judge a book by its cover,” but many times appearances matter. Don’t regret picking out a nice outfit or a trendy restaurant.

### LEO

Jul 23/Aug 23

Leo, if you see a chance to get ahead this week, jump on it. No matter what is involved or how inconvenient, you do not want to let this opportunity pass you by.

### SCORPIO

Oct 24/Nov 22

Exercise caution when sharing your secrets, Scorpio. Make sure others can be tight-lipped, as some people cannot resist passing on a little gossip here and there.

### AQUARIUS

Jan 21/Feb 18

If you have been trying to become better acquainted with someone in your personal life or even at the office, pay attention to their body language. It can say a lot.

### GEMINI

May 22/Jun 21

Change may take you in unexpected directions this week, Gemini. The good news is that things are finally turning around for you. Enjoy this exciting time.

### VIRGO

Aug 24/Sept 22

There is much more clarity in your life this week, Virgo. It's almost as if a veil has been lifted or if your eyeglasses prescription has been fine-tuned.

### SAGITTARIUS

Nov 23/Dec 21

There is great harmony in your life right now and it's due mostly to the fact that you are working together with people both at home and at work. Keep up the collaborations.

### PISCES

Feb 19/Mar 20

Pisces, trust your heart this week and be honest with how you feel about situations. Not every decision has to be based on analysis. Trust your gut.

# answers

K	C	E	N	V	E	D	E	M	S	D	A	V	A	
S	I	B	I	B	B	U	P	L	F	E	L	B	V	
I	R	V	B	S	E	F	V	C	V	E	L	P		
R	E	B	A	S	C	E	D	E	D	H	V	A		
			S	E	D	V	N	E	R	E	S			
N	V	S	S	V	N	R	E	M		R	V	T		
V	I	B	V	A	C	I	P	S	D	E	C	V		
I	N	I	T	B	S	D	V	S	V	B	V			
S	V	B	V	H	S	V	R	E	I	D	I	V		
V	M	A	V	R	V	E	V	A	R	T	V	C		
			M	V	H	N	E	T	O	T				
S	K	S	V	C	R	I	C	S	I	B	V			
H	C	V	E	R	V	D	V	R	S	V	I	M		
V	E	B	R	S	E	L	X	V	E	L	B	V		
V	B	B	V	S	N	O	E	V	R	V	V	M		

6	9	5	4	2	8	1	7	8
8	8	1	6	7	9	5	2	4
4	3	7	5	8	1	8	9	6
6	1	6	3	4	2	8	5	7
7	4	2	1	5	8	6	8	9
3	5	8	9	6	7	4	1	2
5	6	3	7	9	4	2	8	1
2	7	4	8	1	5	9	6	8
1	8	9	2	8	6	7	4	5

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OBITUARIES

Stephen J. Cummings

Stephen J. Cummings died March 9, 2021 as a result of a skiing accident on Garnet Peak, one of his favorite places. Although we lost him too soon, there is comfort knowing he spent his last day doing what he loved, tapping his maple trees and backcountry skiing, on a beautiful late winter afternoon.

Steve's greatest pleasure was his family. He was a dedicated husband, selfless father, and had just become a grandfather to twin boys.

Steve was born March 20, 1954, to the late Henry and Barbara Cummings. He attended Wachusett Regional High School, where he spent his time fixing his 1965 Ford Bronco and chasing his future wife and soulmate Andrea Tosi. He earned his BSME from WPI and his MBA from Boston University.

Steve and Andrea moved to Middlefield, MA, on ancestral land that has been in his family since 1782. There they built a house and raised a family, spending much of their time in the fields and woods surrounding their house. Steve was an avid naturalist and loved looking for tracks, hunting for sheds, and foraging for leeks and mushrooms.

Steve was an engineer who was always curious about the world around him. He had an innate sense of how things worked, and was able to fix or build anything. He shared this passion with others, eager to teach them what he knew.

Steve loved being involved with his children's



activities, including coaching their various soccer teams. In recent years, he enjoyed hiking and skiing with them and following their more adventurous pursuits on Strava. He loved every day of his retirement - hiking, biking, and skiing by himself or with friends, maple sugaring, cutting firewood, and teaching himself new engineering techniques.

Steve is survived by his wife and best friend of nearly 50 years, Andrea Tosi; his son Jed Cummings and wife Lauren Lisle; his son Samuel Cummings and partner Kirsten Huff; and his daughter Morgan Cummings, husband Matthew Toy, and their twin sons William Stephen and Henry Githens. He leaves his brother David (Lisa) Cummings; his sister Janet (Brian) Donnelly; in-laws Sandy Tosi (Paul Maidment); Robert Tosi (Jo-Ann Dery); numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins; and countless friends.

A celebration of life will be held later in the spring due to COVID-19 restrictions. To leave memories or condolences for the family, please visit: [www.deryfuneralhome.com](http://www.deryfuneralhome.com). If desired, memorial donations can be made to the Highland Agriculture Society or the Middlefield Fire Department, c/o Dery Funeral Home, 54 Bradford Street, Pittsfield, MA 01201.

Steve lived his life on his own terms on the land that he cherished. We will miss him greatly, but will continue to remember him when the owls hoot and the bobolinks sing.

Mary J. (Lopresto) Dalesandro, 94

Mary J. (Lopresto) Dalesandro, 94, passed away on Monday, March 22, at Baystate Noble Hospital. She was born in Chester, MA to the late Vincenzo and Bombina (Sebastiano) Lopresto.

Mary loved to travel and has been to every state in the United States including Alaska and Hawaii, loved to read at least three to four books a week, enjoyed cooking, loved people, going out to eat, and playing solitaire on the computer. Mary will be remembered for being a very generous and giving person. Terry and Lori in the Pulmonary Therapy Department felt inspired by Mary's dedication to her health; they were very helpful and gave Mary great care.

Mary was predeceased by her husband Nicholas Dalesandro, Sr.; a son Nicholas Dalesandro, Jr.; a daughter, Cheryl Woodis; a brother, Luciano



Lopresto; and her sister Anna Rheame. She is survived by her loving daughter Rosemary (S. Judith) Dalesandro of Chester; two grandsons, Anthony Dalesandro and his wife Tonya of Yorktown, VA and Andrew Dalesandro; her three cherished great grandchildren Aiden, Ashton and Emilee; and several nieces, nephews, great nieces and great nephews.

A Funeral Mass was celebrated for Mary on Wednesday, March 24, at 10:30 a.m. in St. Mary's Church on Bartlett Street in Westfield. Visiting hours were prior to the mass from 8:30 to 10 a.m. in Firtion Adams FS in Westfield. The burial will be held in St. Thomas Cemetery, Huntington in the spring. Donations, in lieu of flowers, may be directed to the St. Mary's High School, 27 Bartlett Street, Westfield, MA 01085.

Jane Emerson, 95

Jane Emerson, 95, formerly of West Cummington, MA, passed away on Tuesday, March 9. Born in Pittsfield, MA, on September 8, 1925, the daughter of the late Robert and Pauline Shaw Burnette, she graduated from Pittsfield High School with the class of 1943.

Jane worked at the post office in Cummington for 20 dedicated years, up until her retirement in 1990. She enjoyed sending weekly homemade post cards to her grandchildren.

Jane was predeceased by her husband of nearly 60 years, Alvah P. Emerson, whom she married on October 27, 1946. Alvah passed away in 2006. She is survived by her three children Steven Emerson (Martha), Dann

Emerson (Karen Lovett), and Marcia Emerson (David Gimbert). Jane leaves behind five dear grandchildren, Heath, Shelly (Steve), Kasey (John), Christofer, and Taylor; as well as five great grandchildren, Aaron (Maxx), Travis, Lilly, Ryder, and Dannica.

There will be no formal funeral services for Jane Emerson. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Cummington Fire Association, 8 Fairgrounds Road, Cummington, MA 01026, or in care of the Dwyer-Wellington Funeral Home, 525 Main Street, Dalton, MA 01226, in her memory. Donations cannot be made online, but may be made through the Dwyer-Wellington Funeral Home.

DEATH NOTICES

CUMMINGS, STEPHEN J.

Died March 9, 2021  
Celebration of life to be held at later date

DALESANDRO (LOPRESTO), MARY J.

Died March 22, 2021

EMERSON, JANE

Died March 9, 2021  
There will be no services



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PUBLIC NOTICES

TOWN OF WORTHINGTON  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
PUBLIC HEARING

Pursuant to MGL 71 section 38N, the Worthington School Committee will hold a public hearing on Thursday, **April 8, 2021 at 6:30 PM via Zoom\*** to consider the proposed school district budget for fiscal year 2022. \*by executive order of the governor and in keeping with his directions we are meeting virtually until further notice, here are the details to participate by video or to call in.

**Join Zoom Meeting:**  
<https://zoom.us/j/92159901144?pwd=S3I5d0UxVjM4dEdtBQ3R1ZEphYXIBUT09>  
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**+1 646 876 9923 US (New York)**

Meeting ID: 921 5990 1144  
Passcode: 917327

Copies of the proposed budget are available in the main office of the R. H. Conwell Elementary School and will be available below on April 2, 2021:  
<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1tpUjAeVWmLtxnO4f1vKMbuQVr9aRK-IsW?usp=sharing>  
03/25/2021

Town of Williamsburg  
Zoning Board of Appeals  
LEGAL NOTICE

A Public Hearing will be held at **10:00 AM on Tuesday, April 13, 2021** to consider the following: The application of Robert Ross, 146 Main St. Williamsburg, MA, Assessors Map K, Lots

189 & 190 for a Special Permit to operate a Used Car Dealership as required by Sections 3.2 of the Zoning Bylaws of Williamsburg. The hearing will be conducted by teleconference on the ZOOM platform. Copies of the application and Log-in information can be found at [www.burgy.org](http://www.burgy.org) under Calendars for April 13, 2021.

Charles Dudek, Chairman  
Zoning Board of Appeals  
03/18, 03/25/2021

Commonwealth of  
Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Hampden Probate and  
Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
(413)748-7758  
Docket No. HD21P0307EA

Estate of:  
LOUISE R TRUDEAU

Date of Death:  
**12/08/2018**  
CITATION ON PETITION  
FOR FORMAL  
ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:  
A Petition for Public Administration has been filed by **John J Ferriter** of Holyoke, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **John J Ferriter** of Holyoke, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **With Corporate Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 04/15/2021**.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED  
ADMINISTRATION UNDER  
THE MASSACHUSETTS

UNIFORM PROBATE CODE  
(MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: March 18, 2021  
**Rosemary A Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
03/25/2021



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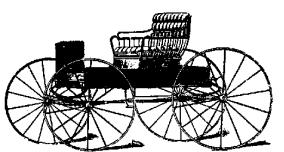
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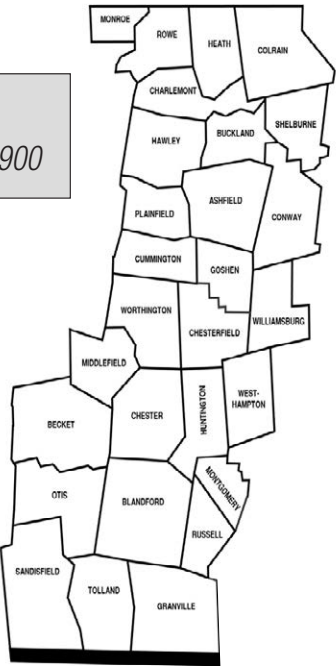
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HELP WANTED

**TOWN ADMINISTRATOR** Town of Chesterfield, Chesterfield, Massachusetts is seeking applicants for a Town Administrator. Chesterfield has a population of 1,235 and an annual budget of \$3.8 million. The Town Administrator will report directly to the three-member Select Board, will coordinate most activities in the Town, and carry out policies and actions of the Select Board. A bachelor's degree in public administration, business, or related field is preferred with experience in an administrative and/or management position with some supervisory responsibility, preferably in a municipal setting. Position is 32 hours per week with a minimum of two evenings per month required. Salary range is up to \$52,000 annually depending on experience. A job description is available on the Town's website, [www.townofchesterfieldma.com](http://www.townofchesterfieldma.com). Resume and cover letter should be sent to the Chesterfield Select Board, PO Box 299, 422 Main Road Chesterfield, MA 01012 by 3 p.m. on April 15, 2021.

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# Hilltown

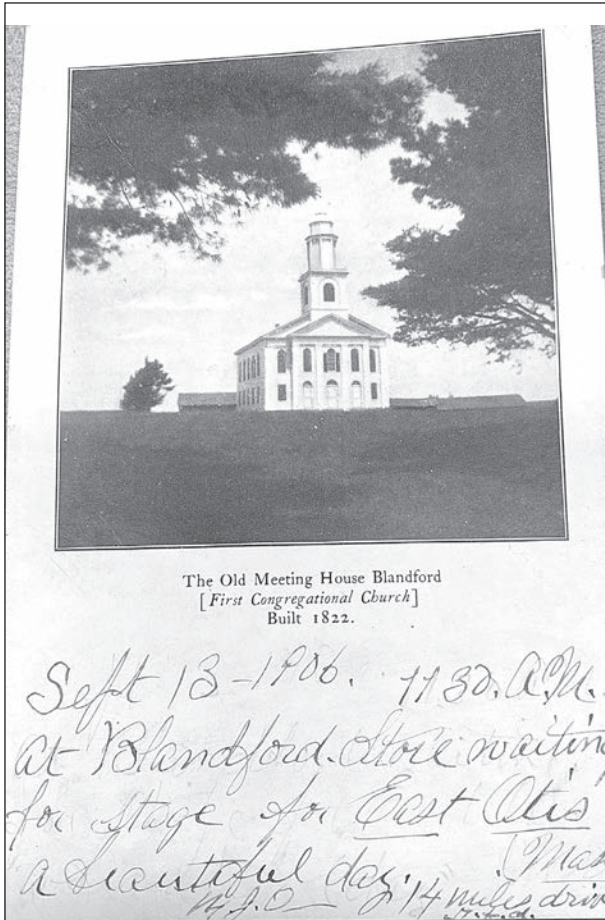
## SNAPSHOTS

VOICES OF SUPPORT



Jon and Nancy Gould of Williamsburg share their message for survivors of domestic violence as part of the Southern Hilltowns Domestic Violence Task Force's Hilltown Voice's campaign to raise awareness and support for domestic violence victims. *Submitted photo*

POSTAL HISTORY



Jennifer and Greg Girard were looking around in an antique shop in Chatham last week and Greg discovered a picture post card of The White Church. The card was written September 13, 1906. The message on it said that a couple was waiting for the stage coach at the general store. The card will be framed and on display at the Blandford Country Store. *Photo by Mary Kronholm*

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3/25/21 - 3/31/21

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**BONELESS & SKINLESS  
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